



...where we are all inspired to learn

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Wednesday 18th January 2017

Reception Newsletter - Spring 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the spring term! I hope you have all had the opportunity to recharge over the Christmas break. This term we are going to be having a big focus upon writing (see further down) as well as ensuring that all the sounds we have already learnt are embedded and secure. As well as that we will be looking at how our environment is changing heading into Spring and to help us with that we will be doing some gardening, cooking and tracking the weather. We are also going to be stretching our number knowledge by counting on and backwards, counting in 2s and beginning to look at simple addition. As you can already see, we've got a busy term ahead and we can see that the children are coming in eager to learn. Thank you for your support in this and we look forward to continue working with you.

Topic - Much like the autumn term we will be covering our work in topics. These typically last no longer than 4 weeks at a time and most of the time are shorter. Our topics for this term are:

Winter (already covered) - We have already looked at how our environment has changed since autumn and how it will continually change going into spring. Although future topics will not have a heavy focus on change, we will be looking at it continually throughout the term.

Chinese New Year - We are currently looking at the traditional story of Chinese New Year and from this we will be doing some writing and maths. At the end of the topic we will be having a Chinese feast.

The Gambia - Every year as your child goes through the school they will carry out a unit of work on Gambia. The Reception unit of work introduces children to Fatou - a girl who lives in the Gambia. This topic also links to the story 'Fatou Fetch the Water' by Neil Griffiths.

Global Awareness Fortnight - This is a whole school topical fortnight where all children will be learning and looking at where food is produced, how this differs around our world and how we in Great Britain can do something about ensuring farmers are paid fairly for their crops. The children will also be comparing and contrasting cultures and backgrounds. More information to follow.

Spring and Easter – A brilliant topic looking at how the environment around us is changing from winter and what else will continue to change. As well as this, we will explore the meaning of Easter and why it is a celebrated Christian festival.

Dates for diary:

- 2nd February - Heights and Weights
- 10th February - Teacher Training day (no school)
- 13th-17th February - Half term
- 20th/21st February - Parents evenings
- 2nd March - World book day (costume)
- 10th March - Class assembly
- 7th April - End of term

Wow! Moments – We are already very grateful to all of the parents that have brought in Wow! Moments to share with us. Thank you very much! We strive to read them all out to the children before sending them for Mrs Mewett to see. Please continue to bring in Wow! Moments as these do contribute towards how we assess children. If anyone needs any ideas for what to write on Wow! Moments please don't hesitate to come and ask us.

Snacks and Water – To maximise our brain function and encourage a healthy life style, a healthy snack in school each day in addition to a bottle of water is recommended! We are encouraging the children to drink and eat smart by keeping hydrated through the day and be conscious of what they are eating. The school also provides free fruit for children to have as a snack at lunch time. Children under the age of 5 are also entitled to a free bottle of milk every day. If you wish to continue receiving milk over the age of 5 please see the office for details on how to pay. Snacks, such as crisps and sweets will be positively discouraged. Children are also being much more adventurous with the Hot dinners, thank you for all your support in this area.

Reading Diaries – All of Reception has now been given their Reading Record books and we will strive to write in them every week with the book we have been reading in group reading. We would kindly ask that children keep their reading Record books in their book bags and place their book bags in their trays when they come in in the morning. It is essential that children have their book bags with them **every day** as we often change our books on different days. Please feel free to add any Home Learning you do with your children or add a comment. The diaries act as a great link between school and home but if there is something important you wish to discuss with us, please come and tell us instead of writing it in the diary.

Reading & Writing – We will be continuing to have two weekly group reading sessions. We will be encouraging children to use the skills they have learnt in phonics to help them decode the text we are reading. Please continue to change individual reading books, in the library, as often as you feel necessary. As children become more comfortable with reading we will be encouraging a higher level of writing. All the children seem enthusiastic about writing and to support this we will be basing our writing in a real-life context with opportunities for children to discuss what it is they are going to write. As with any skill, practise is crucial! We would encourage you to begin writing single letters, words or even phrases and

sentences at home with your child to allow more opportunities to hone this important skill. There will be more Home Learning ideas going on to the blog this term. Any writing that children do at home we would love to see! We aim to cater for all children and will adjust our objectives according to the ability of each individual child. As a result of this the groupings of children may change as the term goes on. If you have anything you wish to discuss with us regarding reading or writing, please come and ask us.

Blog/website - We try our best to keep our class blog up-to-date and hope you find it a useful source of information. This information can be accessed at home, work or on your mobile using our class RSS feed:

http://www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk/The_Prince_of_Wales_First_School/Reception_RSS_Feed.html

Or by clicking on the 'Reception page' on the school website (through the blogs link). We hope you will find this method of communication useful. You can now comment without being required to sign in. We would encourage you to comment on blog posts as it is always nice to share in class what children have been doing at home. We welcome your thoughts on what else could be included on our class blog.

We continue to use the schools' website for Pupil links. Under the Reception folder there will be a growing number of folders containing links and activities to help further your child's learning. In accessing online material and resources, may we remind you of the school's policy on using the Internet at home, which is to always supervise your child when using the Internet. There is also a parents' folder with some useful links for you to use.

PE Kits - Please could you ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school! We will be planning activities to develop children's skills over the term through dance and games activities. As children are growing it may also become necessary to replace some elements of their PE kit and we will let you know if any items no longer fit children.

Rights and Responsibilities (Jigsaw) - We have been thinking about how we can ensure that our classroom remains a happy, safe and fair place to be. The class charter we designed in the Autumn is used alongside the DASP caterpillars to support expectations for behaviour in school and children will regularly be told when they are fulfilling one of the caterpillars. Our class charter can be seen on the window/wall near the reception computer suite - the children have decided on their rights and responsibilities whilst they are in school. Over the term we will be looking at resolving disputes and how we can manage our emotions more effectively. In Jigsaw the topics that we will be covering are Dreams and Goals - which we have already begun - and Healthy Me. For each puzzle children will be encouraged to share their experiences and consider some key questions.

Yours sincerely



Mr Gibson
Reception Class Teacher